

OPC Bulletin

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • DECEMBER 1996

OPC Panel Dissects Election

By Justin Doebele

An all-star OPC panel held just two days after Clinton's re-election concluded that the honeymoon of cooperation between Democrats and Republicans won't last long. "You hear about bipartisanship but I think we are in for a nasty period," said **Alan Elsner**, national political correspondent for Reuters, setting the tone of the evening in his opening remarks.

Held in the elegant surroundings of the Princeton Club the panel, entitled "America's New Direction: Foreign & Domestic," discussed the outlook for Clinton's second term. In addition to Elsner, the crowd of about 85 attendees enjoyed the wit and intelligence of two political heavyweights, former Carter adviser **Jody Powell** and veteran *New York Times* columnist and author **Tom Wicker**. The event was moderated by OPC president **John Corporon**.

After opening remarks by Corporon, Elsner gave the first presentation. The election changed little, he said, predicting further "gridlock and investigations" in Washington. Wicker, who spoke next, agreed. Clinton's second term would be like the first, he said, joking that "neither leopards nor presi-

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From left: Moderator and OPC president John Corporon; former Carter advisor Jody Powell; Reuters National Political Correspondent Alan Elsner and New York Times columnist Tom Wicker.

Clinton's Taiwan Policy to Be Discussed in OPC Talk

President Clinton has just announced that he will hold two high-level meetings between China and the U.S. Among the important issues facing the two nations are trade disputes, copyright protections, human rights and China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

But the thorniest issue is Taiwan. Last year, two events strained U.S.-China relations—the visit of President Lee Teng-hui and the democratic election of President Lee. China reacted to the latter by firing missiles close to Taiwan's coast in the days just before the election.



Dr. Chi Su

Going into its second term, the Clinton administration must decide how it will handle these issues involving Taiwan and China. To help shed some light on these questions, Taiwan's chief spokesman, Dr. Chi Su, will give a presentation on Wednesday, Dec. 11, entitled "The China Question: Relations Among Taipei, Beijing and Washington." Dr. Su was in charge of mainland affairs and Taiwan-China relations before taking up his new post.

The event will be held at the Tudor Hotel, 304 East 42nd Street (near Second Ave.) at 5:30 pm. The talk is free to OPC members and the working press. The charge for non-members is \$5.00, payable at the door. Please call the OPC at (212) 983-4655 for reservations or more information.

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Who Says U.N. News is Boring?

By John Corporon

Who says U.N. affairs and international news are boring? For evidence, look at **Ted Turner's** recent address at the United Nations. Turner, who is not known for his self-censorship, was in rare form when he addressed an audience that included UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, other diplomats and television executives.

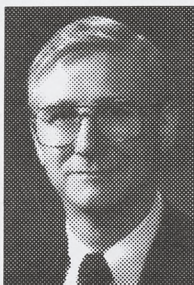
His first target was America's stance as the only country which doesn't support Boutros-Ghali for a second term at the U.N. "Who is the United States to stand alone against the re-election of this good man here," Turner is quoted as saying. "We believe in democracy. That means the majority rules and the majority voted 14 to one."

Turner believes President Clinton is misguided in opposing Boutros-Ghali and he chided Clinton for the U.S.'s failure to pay its \$1.4 billion long-running debt to the U.N. Turner, rated by *Forbes* as a billionaire, said he had considered paying the debt out of his own pocket but then realized "it would be a grandstand play and I would be criticized for doing it."

Continuing his unique style of diplomacy, Turner started berating competing media mogul **Rupert Murdoch**. It should be noted that Turner's Time Warner and Murdoch's News Corp. are locked in a fierce legal battle to gain access rights for Murdoch's Fox News 24 hour cable service onto Time Warner's million plus cable distribution

in New York (see November's column).

"We [CNN] were very benign," he said. "Now, already you can see that here is a new group coming led by that no-good SOB Rupert Murdoch. Rupert Murdoch, sitting wherever he is; I don't know what country he is supposedly from. He is truly a citizen of the world. He wants to sit there and control Indian TV in India. He wants to control Chinese TV in China." He capped his remarks with "Bull...; I don't know how that translates into other languages."



John Corporon

It's safe to say if Turner became head of the U.N. or was named U.S. Ambassador to the UN, people might be glued to following the international affairs.

The public's real lack of interest was highlighted by a recent poll from the public relations firm of Powell Tate, headed by former Carter advisor **Jody Powell**. Speaking at an OPC forum (see p. 1), Powell cited a survey of 1,209 voters nationwide to determine their interest in foreign policy issues.

Conducted by Frederick Schneiders Research, the survey revealed that only 38% of the respondents said that foreign policy issues were "very important." Some 42% of those surveyed said they were "somewhat important;" while 12%

said "not so important," and 6% "not important at all." Powell said 60% of those polled separately rated crime, the economy, taxes and health care as "very important."

CNN has done an admirable job of bringing international news into more living rooms thanks mostly to Ted Turner. But aside from sending Turner himself to the UN, Clinton, as this poll shows, will have his work cut out for him to raise the importance of international affairs with the public.

Fund Gets Donation

A check for \$301 was sent by Rosalind Massow to the Overseas Press Club Foundation to be used to benefit the Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship Fund.

The contribution comes from the now dissolved Eleanor Roosevelt Scholarship Fund of the Newswomen's Club of New York. Since Kuhn was a very active member of the Newswomen's Club, the trustees of the Roosevelt fund—Chris Kirk, Piera Watkins, Kitty Hanson and Massow—felt that the last remaining funds should be used to honor the memory of this very special newswoman. The OPC thanks Massow and the other Roosevelt trustees for the generous donation. For more on the legacy of Irene Corbally Kuhn, see the February *Bulletin*.

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Hong Kong Editors Testing the Limits

By Dinah Lee

"We knew it was nonsense the first day we saw it, but it's something to hang onto while we're drowning," said **Bill Chan** of the Sino-British agreement under which Hong Kong reverts to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997. Chan is the China editor in the news division of the territory's leading television station, HK-TVB, owned by legendary movie czar Run Run Shaw. Chan was speaking candidly at a private dinner on Nov. 4 hosted by the National Committee on United States-China Relations.

Chan was here as part of a five-man delegation visiting New York. The group's membership spanned Hong Kong's political spectrum and included the deputy chief editor of the once-colonial English-language daily *South China Morning Post*, editorial writers from *Tin Tin Daily* and the left-wing *Wen Wei Po* and the international news editor of *Hong Kong Commercial Daily*, considered sympathetic to the mainland.

As a follow-up to the successful October panel discussion sponsored by The Freedom Forum and OPC on the threats to Hong Kong's press freedom (see Nov. *Bulletin*), the informal chat gave members of the OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee a chance to better understand the problems that Hong Kong editors face daily, even before the official handover.

Chan singled out broadcast journalism as the most precarious media because of its visibility. "In print you can run editorials or news stories without bylines, but our first priority must be to protect our staff. Under the seven regulations, which govern Hong Kong and (neighboring) Macau journalists working on the mainland, we are only officially allowed to cover stories after receiving permission two to three weeks in advance," Chan said. "The topic must be specified ahead of time. And we can't go to Beijing and cover other stories on the side. Therefore, if there's breaking news, it's impossible to do our job legally." Chan's comments were a reference to the crackdown on Hong Kong journalists after the Tiananmen tragedy in 1989.

The post-1989 regulations have proved an effective carrot-and-stick system for controlling who and which orga-

nizations work inside China. For major events in Beijing, reporters' names must be submitted for clearance to the New China News Agency in Hong Kong. The NCNA will demand a replacement if the nominated reporter has politically "transgressed" in the past.

Chan described the current *modus operandi* as an uneasy accommodation whereby TVB reporters on the mainland bring their footage back to Hong Kong for standups or the "packaging" before being broadcast. TVB cannot establish an official news bureau in Beijing, so their reporters operate from a defacto bureau and are seen on the job regularly by Chinese authorities. "So, of course, they know we're there," said Chan. TVB reporters on the mainland are always exposed to the risk of being arrested and formally charged and in fact they are detained constantly for many hours at a time, said Chan.

Hong Kong reporters in China are always exposed to the risk of being arrested.

Self-censorship is a worrying trend among Hong Kong media. For the time being, none of the editors seemed too sure of how rigidly the Chinese would interpret the limits on criticism of Beijing leaders recently stated by the Chinese foreign minister Qian Qichen. "It's all right if our criticisms are based on facts not rumors," said **Lui Kin Hung** of the *Hong Kong Commercial Daily*.

"Does that mean we can call Li Peng an animal or not?" retorted Chan, a joke on Li Peng's name in Chinese, which means "roc," a gigantic bird of Eastern legend. Chan admitted his station has already refrained from moves that might brand TVB in Beijing as a troublemaker. For example, a controversial documentary on the life of Mao Zedong has stayed on the shelf for more than two years.

Asked, hypothetically, whether the *South China Morning Post* would drop columnists who are critical of the Communist Party such as legislators Emily Lau and Christine Loh under post-1997 intimidation from the Communists, Cambridge-educated **Victor Fung** said half-jokingly, "Sure." Then he added, "Seriously, we would

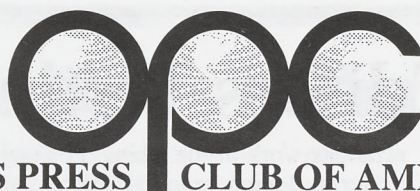
have to look at who owns us after 1997 and make a decision at that time."

Currently the *South China Morning Post* is owned by Malaysian business tycoon Robert Kuok, but he has major business interests on the mainland and could easily be swayed by Communist interests—or even sell the paper to them. In fact, when the former head of the New China News Agency, **Xu Jiantun**, defected to a Buddhist temple in San Diego after the Tiananmen incident, he wrote in his memoirs of discussions with Beijing to take a controlling interest in the newspaper.

According to a 1995 report by the Hong Kong Journalists Association, the Communist government stepped up their infiltration of Hong Kong media organizations after June 4, 1989. Lui of *Commercial Daily* said it was now no secret who was the so-called mainland "uncle" from the Communist Party on their editorial staff, as the person in question also serves in Beijing as a high-ranking Communist Party official in the State Council's office of press affairs. In other newspapers China's agents might adopt a much lower profile.

Chan says that the Communists cannot afford to interfere too openly in the early days of the coming transition. "If somebody sits over me every day and tells me what to do, I would just get up and walk away," he said. "They can't afford to have everybody walk out, so it will be all right for at least the first five years. Then we have to see." Chan said it's a question of constantly testing the limits. He also saw some comfort in that Hong Kong issues are still referred in Beijing to Lu Ping, head of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, who seems to understand Hong Kong better than most of the leadership in Beijing.

The author has spent 20 years reporting on Chinese affairs from Hong Kong and the mainland, notably from 1981-88 for the Economist and 1988-92 for Business Week. Her first Asian reporting job was with the South China Morning Post as a local reporter in 1974. She is the recipient of the OPC's 1991 human rights award for her coverage of Chinese prison labor exports and has served since 1993 as co-chair of the OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee.



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ENTRY DEADLINE — JANUARY 31, 1997
AWARDS DINNER — APRIL 24, 1997

NOMINEE

ORGANIZATION NAME

NOMINEE'S ADDRESS & PHONE #

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

TITLE OF ENTRY

CATEGORY

(See below for definition and explanation of Awards)

DATE(S) OF PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST

SUBMITTED BY:

(Name, Address, Phone Number of Person or Organization)

Each entry is to be accompanied by a check for \$100 made payable to The Overseas Press Club.

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in the broadcast media

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PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

COLUMBIA, Missouri: Two international journalists, **Sang-Hoon Bang** and **Edith Lederer**, and a South African newspaper were among seven recipients of 1996 Journalism Honor Medals awarded this autumn by the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri. Bang is publisher, president and chief executive of *The Chosun Ilbo*, South Korea's largest daily newspaper with a circulation of more than 2.5 million. His paper received the 1994 United Nations Environmental Program's Global 500 Award for its stand on environmental issues. **Lederer**, an AP correspondent in London, covered the Vietnam War and conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Rwanda, Israel, Northern Ireland, Somalia, Russia, Romania, Afghanistan and Bosnia. She's also reported from Hong Kong, Mexico City, Nairobi and Lima. Lederer joined AP in New York in 1966. Also receiving a medal was the *Mail & Guardian*, a South African weekly newspaper that through years of apartheid, uncovered many negative aspects of South Africa's government. The Olympic-size bronze medals were presented during a banquet attended by more than 400 people.

DENVER: Three AP photographers based in Africa and Russia won annual awards from the Associated Press Managing Editors during the organization's 1996 annual convention this autumn in Denver. **David Guttenfelder**, based in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and **Jean-Marc Bouju**, based in Nairobi, Kenya, won the news photography award for their coverage of last spring's factional fighting in Monrovia, Liberia. **Alexander Zemlianichenko**, a Moscow staffer, won the feature award for his photo of **Boris Yeltsin** dancing at a rock concert during Russia's recent presidential campaign.

FERNDAL, Calif.: OPCer **Elizabeth Poston McHarry**, 80, wants the record to show that she was the first woman to write main leads during the early days of the United Nations when it was based in Lake Success, N.Y. She reports: "From the beginning at Lake Success, **Gene Gillette**, United Press night news manager, assigned me to

write the U.N. [and that was a big story then] night lead daily for AM papers. **Bob Manning** wrote the day lead for afternoon newspapers and as I recall all the principal reporters were male but me. I know damn well I was the only woman in New York City writing a lead story on the U.N., not interviews or features, and I believe I was the only woman [doing so] in the U.S. and the world. I should either be honored or corrected. Things were tough for women in those days—this was long before women's lib and we of that generation of journalists broke a lot of tough ground for women libbers."

GENEVA: **Ron Redmond**, a former UPI correspondent in Manila, is the new public relations director for the U.N. High Commission for Refugees. He succeeded **Sylvana Foa**, who moved to New York to become spokesman for U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali. Foa hired Redmond after she joined the United Nations from UPI, where she had been a correspondent and editor in Cambodia, Thailand, Hong Kong and Washington.

HANOI: When it expired Nov. 1, the Vietnamese government refused to renew the visa of **Adam Schwarz**, Hanoi bureau chief for the Hong Kong-based weekly news magazine, *Far Eastern Economic Review*. The AP said Schwarz's "reporting exposed economic mismanagement and divisions within Vietnam's governing Communist party." In a brief statement, the Hanoi government said: "His [Schwarz] visa expires now, and we find that we are not able to extend it any more. This is a normal thing." Schwarz is from New York.

HONG KONG: **John Giannini**, president of our reciprocal Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club, says the Club is preparing for an influx of visiting reporters when Britain hands the colony to China at midnight next June 30. With a membership of 1,400 and a newly-renovated clubhouse, the Club is discussing joint media events with the Freedom Forum Asia Center. For visiting reporters, the Club will publish a *Correspondents Survival Guide* that will

include contact numbers for Hong Kong information sources, restaurants, hotels, airlines and consulates. Writing in the October issue of *The Correspondent*, the Club's magazine, Giannini said: "It will contain information that most of us take for granted, such as why taxis sometimes don't stop when hailed and what time the Noon Day gun is fired."

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan: As a woman, **Kathy Gannon**, AP correspondent in Pakistan who has covered Afghanistan for a decade, faced new problems when the Taliban took over Kabul and women were banished from the streets unless fully covered from head to toe. "I knew it wasn't going to be easy dealing with them as a woman," Gannon wrote. "So I put on my scarf, an easy compromise, and headed to the presidential palace to see whether the reports of [former Afghan president] Najibullah's hanging were true [and they were].... The chief Taliban met the press but not the only woman reporter in sight — me. [AP stringer] **Abdullah** was there and he got the quotes."

LONDON: The AP and BBC have signed a contract to develop and implement an Electronic News Production System that will enable BBC journalists around the world to retrieve text, pictures, sound and video from their desktops. "We believe it will give our staff more power, be easier to use, and lower training and support costs," said **Tony Hall**, chief executive of BBC News & Current Affairs. **Lou Boccardi**, AP president and chief executive officer, said: "We look forward to working with the BBC to complete what will be the finest broadcast newsroom system in the world." The new system replaces the BBC's Basys newsroom system.

MOSCOW: **Richard Threlkeld** became Moscow correspondent for CBS News on Nov. 1. Previously he was a regular contributor to several CBS News broadcasts including "CBS Evening News with Dan Rather" and "CBS Sunday Morning."

MOUNT DORA, Florida: **Suzanne Greene**, a UPI correspondent in Hong Kong and New Delhi during the 1970s and 1980s, has just published her third novel "Dangerous Skies" (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux). The book
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PEOPLE

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deals with two children who grew up on the Eastern Shore of Chesapeake Bay and whose lifelong friendship is shattered by betrayal and racism. Greene's first two novels, written for young readers, were based in Pakistan.

NEW YORK: OPC President **John Corporon** was inducted into the Silver Circle of the New York Television Academy on Nov. 11. Silver Circle honors the work of people with more than 25 years experience in TV. Corporon retired last year as senior vice president and news director at WPIX-TV, New York City.

Sheri Prasso has moved to *Business Week's* New York headquarters as Asia Editor. She replaces **Bruce Einhorn**, who has moved to the magazine's Hong Kong bureau. Prasso has previously spent many years living in and covering Southeast Asia.

Documentary pictures taken during the Great Depression for *Life* magazine by **Horace Bristol**, later a U.S. Navy photographer in the Pacific during World War II and then a freelance photographer in Japan, were exhibited in New York City during November. In 1937-38, Bristol and author John Steinbeck spent seven weeks photographing and interviewing migrant farmers in California. Steinbeck withdrew from the *Life* assignment before it was finished and disavowed his connection with it. *The New York Times* reported. "I don't know why," Bristol told the *Times*. "He



Horace Bristol

was a peculiar, private individual." But that assignment apparently contributed to Steinbeck's 1940 Pulitzer Prize novel "The Grapes of Wrath." A book by Ken Conner and Debra Heimerdinger, "Horace Bristol: An American View" (Chronicle Books, 1996) states: "There is little doubt that Steinbeck based the central characters in his masterpiece on the farm workers he and Bristol had encountered in Visalia during the winter of 1937-38." New York's Robert Miller Gallery mounted the exhibit titled "Horace Bristol: The

Grapes of Wrath." Bristol, now 88, lives in Ojai, California.

This autumn the AP announced two appointments in its corporate communications department. **Tori Smith**, 30, acting director of corporate communications, was named director. **Janis Magin**, 32, Atlanta bureau staffer, became special projects manager and editor of *AP World*, the news cooperative's quarterly magazine.

James Carroll, 53, an op-ed columnist for the *Boston Globe*, won the 1996 \$10,000 National Book Award on Nov. 6 for nonfiction. His book about his own family's fierce disagreement over the Vietnam War is entitled "An American Requiem: God, My Father and the War That Became Between Us" (New York: Houghton Mifflin).

David H. Hackworth, a *Newsweek* contributing editor and a syndicated columnist for King Features, pours out his criticisms of U.S. political and military leaders in a book published this autumn, "Hazardous Duty" (New York: William Morrow), written with author **Tom Mathews**.



David Hackworth

Hackworth, a retired U.S. Army colonel, is said to be America's most decorated living soldier, winning two Distinguished Service Crosses, nine Silver Stars, eight Bronze Stars and eight Purple Hearts in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. After leaving the Army, he became a war correspondent, and his book includes military reports from the Persian Gulf, the Balkans, Somalia, Vietnam, Korea, Haiti and Washington. Contending that the Pentagon wastes billions of dollars, he concludes: "The truth is, we need to change and reform the entire U.S. armed forces." He offers several recommendations including merging the Army and Marine Corps, and eliminating service chiefs and civilian secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force in favor of a combined Defense Force headquarters run by a civilian Secretary of Defense. Hackworth opens Chapter 11 with this question: "Did I kill Admiral Boorda?" He then writes about his *Newsweek* investigation into suspicions that Admiral Jeremy Boorda,

Chief of U.S. Naval Operations, was wearing valor medals he had not earned. Boorda committed suicide on May 16, 1996, hours before he was scheduled to be interviewed by *Newsweek*. Hackworth writes: "His suicide was a tragedy. His career needed no embellishment. He should have been as proud of it as the Navy was of him." But Hackworth is harsh on other leaders: "By the time I left [Vietnam] I wanted to nuke the Pentagon, Congress and the White House. I felt like lining up LBJ, Richard Nixon, Maxwell Taylor and William Westmoreland against a stone wall and shooting them....I never loved the Army. What I always loved were the troops. And I love them still. I love them because they are what it's all about, soldiers on hazardous duty sharing the dangers of war."

One day after President Clinton's reelection, his administration stepped up its campaign to deny a second term to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, charging that he interfered in American politics by pressing his case in the U.S. Congress. His spokesman, former UPI foreign editor **Sylvana Foa**, called the White House charges a "smear campaign."

PARIS: Two ABC News correspondents on either side of the Atlantic made headlines in November. Speaking to 100 airline officials in Cannes, France, **Pierre Salinger**, 71, President Kennedy's press secretary and a former ABC correspondent in Paris, said he had been given a classified document that claimed that a U.S. Navy missile accidentally shot down TWA Flight 800 near Long Island in July, killing 230 people. The FBI, the Navy and the Pentagon denied the report, saying Salinger's document had been posted on the Internet since August and had been investigated and discounted. Salinger stood by his story when he met with FBI and Secret Service agents in New York City Nov. 12. Salinger said the agents asked him to continue his investigation. In New York during ABC's U.S. election night coverage, **David Brinkley**, 76, called President Clinton's victory speech "one of the worst things I've ever heard," adding that the president "has not a creative bone in his body....He's a bore and will always be a bore." Taping an interview with Clinton three days later, Brinkley apologized to the president:

"What I said at the end of our election night coverage was both impolite and unfair. And I'm sorry. I regret it." Clinton smiled and replied: "Well, thank you. Let me just say, I accept that." Then the interview continued.

PHNOM PENH: *The Phnom Penh Post*, a fortnightly newspaper founded by **Michael Hayes**, an American with no previous newspaper experience except as a carrier boy, marked its fourth anniversary this year. Hayes, 45, who grew up in East Falmouth, Massachusetts, went to Cambodia looking for work after losing his job as a foreign aid worker in Bangkok. He invested about \$45,000 of his \$50,000 life savings to start the paper. With Hayes as editor and publisher, the 20-page Phnom Penh Post now has 20 staffers and a print run of 5,000. Outside Cambodia, it claims 850 subscribers in some 40 countries. Although it says it's the oldest continuously published newspaper in Cambodia, the Post did not hold an anniversary party. "We can't afford it, but we do break even," Hayes said.

SAN FRANCISCO: Veteran TV journalist **James Hattori** has left CBS News to become co-anchor and reporter at KRON-TV in San Francisco. Hattori had worked for CBS in its Tokyo bureau and had covered such major events as the Kobe earthquake. His other foreign news credits for CBS included coverage of the Persian Gulf war and the Panama invasion.

SAO PAULO: OPC member **Bill Hinchberger** (hinch@ax.apc.org) was reelected to another one-year term as president of the Associação dos Correspondentes Estrangeiros (ACE), Sao Paulo's foreign press club. During Bill's first term, ACE entered into a reciprocal agreement with the OPC. A freelancer who has covered international news for over 15 years, Hinchberger writes regularly for publications ranging from *International Investor* to *ARTnews*. Earlier this year, Hinchberger was elected as the first overseas representative to attend the National Writers Union annual convention.



Bill Hinchberger

SINGAPORE: **Neel Chowdhury** has joined *Fortune* in its new Singapore office. He will be providing regional coverage for the magazine's expanded coverage of Asia, including an Asian edition. Chowdhury's media credits include the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and stints with CNBC Asia.

SENECA, South Carolina: After years as a correspondent in Tokyo, Hong Kong and London for *Pacific Stars & Stripes*, UPI and Knight-Ridder Financial News Service, and a second career as a U.S. Air Force intelligence officer specializing in counter terrorism in Southeast Asia, **D.W. (Dewey) Brackett** has written

a book on the March 20, 1995, nerve gas attacks in Tokyo subways that killed 11 people and injured more than 5,000. "Holy Terror: Armageddon in Tokyo" (New York: Weatherhill, 1996) traces the life of Shoko Asahara, founder of the Aum Shinri Kyo (Divine Truth) sect, who now is on trial for the murders; explains the sect's beliefs, gives an hour-by-hour account of the sarin nerve gas attacks, and describes the impact on Japan of its first case of domestic mass terrorism. Brackett writes: "Until Aum came along, most Japanese, if they thought about it at all, probably considered themselves immune to religious terrorism — at least in their own country. Extreme religious fervor is an attitude largely unfamiliar to the Japanese, most of whom worship privately in the sedate calm of their temples and shrines." Brackett notes that Japan's postwar constitution, drafted by the American Occupation Headquarters, guarantees religious freedom. "It is ironic that 40 years later," Brackett writes, "Aum Shinri Kyo, a minor Japanese religious sect headed by a half-blind, soft-spoken man, would shelter securely for years under the constitutional legacy of religious freedom drafted by the Americans he so despised."

SYDNEY: **Russell Spurr**, for many years a correspondent in East Asia for ABC Radio, *London Daily Express* and the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, is learning to drive again after a stroke last year that paralyzed his right side. "Things



Dewey Brackett

were not made easier by having to drive with my left foot and have the car specially modified, because my right leg was too stiff and unresponsive," Spurr, 74, wrote. "But somehow I have managed to muddle through, buoyed by the belief that in the end I would succeed."

TORONTO: **Bashar Al-Rehany**, formerly with Reuters, is the new president and chief executive of Dow Jones Telerate Canada.

WASHINGTON: **Kristin Kyoko Altman**, for the past two years Washington correspondent for Japan's TV Asahi, will join CNN's Washington bureau as a general assignment reporter Dec. 2. For TV Asahi she covered the White House, Congress, the State Department and the Pentagon. A Yale graduate in electrical engineering, Altman was based in Paris for the Japanese television network before her Washington assignment.

◆ **Djun Kil Kim**, minister for public affairs at South Korea's embassy in Washington, announced on Nov. 1 the opening of its web site at "korea.emb.washington.dc.us/." The web site gives the text of the latest press releases and speeches of government officials, contain schedules of current events and lectures on Korea, and provide news items, press information and newsletters about Korea, all in English, Kim said.

DECEASED: **Lloyd A. Free**, who headed the forerunner of the U.S. Information Agency after a career as a news commentator in London, died Nov. 11 at a nursing home in Bethesda, Maryland. He was 88. In the late 1930s, Free worked in London for the BBC and CBS as a commentator on international affairs. During World War II, he directed the U.S. Foreign Broadcast Listening Service that monitored Nazi Germany radio broadcasts. After the war, he organized mass communications programs for UNESCO and the U.S. State Department. After graduating from Princeton in 1930, Free taught political science in China, obtained a law degree from Stanford, taught at Princeton's School of Public and International affairs and served as editor of the *Public Opinion Quarterly*. He conducted public opinion polls in several countries including Cuba, Brazil, France, Nigeria, Japan, Thailand and the Philippines.

BRIEFS

Graduate and undergraduate students in the U.S. who aspire to careers as foreign correspondents are invited to apply for six scholarships of \$1000 each to be awarded by the OPC Foundation. Applicants should submit a tightly crafted essay of up to 500 words about an area of the world or an international topic that they feel deserves better coverage. They should also attach a one-page letter about themselves, their education, relevant experience and how they plan to use the funds, if chosen. Please do not send resumes, clippings or photographs. Entries are judged on clarity, focus and sense of professional commitment. Entries should be sent to: Bill Holstein, President, OPC Foundation, 320 East 42 Street, New York, NY 10017. Entries must be received by **DEC. 10, 1996**. Winners will be officially announced at a Foundation Luncheon in January 1997.

The OPC Foundation Scholarship luncheon will be held on Monday, Jan. 27, 1997 at McGraw-Hill. **James Fallows**, editor of *U.S. News & World Report* and author of "Breaking the News," will be the featured speaker.

The famine panel, "The Future of Global Food Security," slated for last month has been postponed until early 1997. Events in Zaire and the U.N. World Food Summit in Rome led to scheduling problems. Watch the *Bulletin* for details.

VOTE

(Continued from Front Page)
dents change their spots."

Then Powell, in trademark fashion, gave a colorful presentation. Noting that Senator Al D'Amato had called for ending investigations on the Clintons, Powell drew a laugh by saying, "Any election that turns D'Amato into a statesman can't be dismissed." But most of his presentation faulted voters for not changing the power equation between Republicans and Democrats—meaning "nothing will get done" for the next four years.

As an example, the panelists pointed to campaign finance reform during the question and answer period. The controversy over the financial and other links between the Clintons and the Indonesian Riady family highlighted a problem for which there is no easy solution. Elsner noted that both parties may use the issue only to target the other's historical supporters—union support for Democrats and big business support for Republicans. A proposal to impose limits on runaway campaign costs was a noble but unrealistic goal, the panelists said, since such limits are inevitably sidestepped.

"The best thing we can do is immediate and full disclosure," argued Wicker. Powell agreed that the rules on limiting contributions were arcane and flawed. When a question arose if the Riady scandal threatened the presidency, Powell shot back: "Get real." Drawing on his White House experience, he noted that foreign interests have always

sought ways to influence the U.S. president. "If you ever get into it," Powell proclaimed, "everybody's ox is going to get gored."

The panelists did agree that keeping campaign financing to just American sources rather than foreign ones was a desirable goal. But if full disclosure was the rule, Wicker argued, then a candidate couldn't hide a foreign source of support.

Elsner helped wind up the evening on a light note. He said the answer to all these questions would be to install a "p-chip" similar to a "v-chip" in television sets to protect the public from these offensive political issues.

Holiday Party in January

The OPC will celebrate the coming holiday season in grand style with its annual party at the Tudor Hotel on Tuesday, January 7, from 5:30 to 9:00 pm.

The holiday party will include an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, dinner buffet and dessert. There also will be a raffle contest with prizes. Please join us for all the fun, excitement and holiday cheer.

The cost for this event will be \$25 per person. Reservations for the party are required. Please book as early as possible. The Tudor Hotel is located at 304 East 42nd Street near Second Avenue. The OPC telephone is (212) 983-4655.

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